

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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MEMORANDUM

June 11, 2018

To: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Democratic Members and Staff

Fr: Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic Staff

Re: Subcommittee Markup on H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017; H.R. 5709, the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement (PIRATE) Act; H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act; and H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act.

On **Wednesday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology will meet to markup H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017; H.R. 5709, the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement (PIRATE) Act; H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act; and H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act.

I. H.R. 2345, NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

Rep. Stewart (R-UT) and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) introduced H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act with an additional three Democratic and three Republican original cosponsors. This bill would create a process for generating a new three-digit number for Americans to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Specifically, the bill would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in coordination with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to produce a study to evaluate the feasibility of designating a 3-digit dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. The study also must evaluate the effectiveness of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK), including how the hotline is working for veterans. Finally, the Commission's evaluation must provide legislative recommendations for designating a new 3-digit dialing code and general recommendations for improving the National Suicide Prevent Lifeline. The Senate has already passed a companion bill by unanimous consent.

II. H.R. 5709, THE PREVENTING ILLEGAL RADIO ABUSE THROUGH ENFORCEMENT (PIRATE) ACT

Rep. Lance (R-NJ) and Rep. Tonko (D-NY) introduced H.R. 5709, the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse through Enforcement (PIRATE) Act. This legislation aims to reduce unauthorized radio broadcasting by:

- (1) Increasing the maximum forfeiture the FCC can assess against illegal pirate operators, from \$10,000 per violation per day to \$100,000 per day per violation, up to a maximum of \$2,000,000;
- (2) Establishing liability for anyone who “knowingly and intentionally” facilitates pirate radio operations;
- (3) Allowing the FCC to impose a forfeiture on a pirate broadcaster without prior notice, if there is evidence of a “real time” broadcast;
- (4) Requiring sustained enforcement attention on pirate broadcasting; and
- (5) Ensuring that state and local laws prohibiting unauthorized broadcasting are not preempted.

III. H.R. 3994, THE ACCESS BROADBAND ACT

Rep. Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. Lance (R-NJ) introduced H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act. This bill establishes an Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The bill requires that Office to:

- (1) Connect with communities that need access to high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion efforts;
- (2) Hold regional workshops to share best practices and effective strategies for promoting broadband access and adoption;
- (3) Develop targeted broadband training and presentations for various demographic communities through media;
- (4) Develop and distribute publications providing guidance to communities for expanding broadband access and adoption; and
- (5) Track construction and use of any broadband infrastructure built using any federal support in a central database

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act would also require the Office to annually report a description of its work, the number of U.S. residents who received broadband as result of federal broadband

programs and the Universal Service Fund program, and an estimate of the economic impact of such broadband deployment efforts on the local economy.

Finally, the Office is required to consult with any agency offering a federal broadband support program to streamline the application process and, to the greatest extent practicable, create one application that may be submitted for all or substantially all Federal broadband support programs.

IV. H.R. 4881, THE PRECISION AGRICULTURE CONNECTIVITY ACT

Rep. Latta (R-OH) and Rep. Loeb sack (D-IA) introduced H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act. This legislation requires the FCC to form a task force within one year of the bill's enactment to address connectivity and technological impediments to precision agriculture. The FCC Chairman is empowered to appoint the task force chairman. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, the task force will, among other things, identify existing broadband internet access coverage gaps on croplands and ranchlands, and recommend policies to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of fixed and mobile broadband access service to these unserved areas.